

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06935 021550Z

43

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-05

IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01 FEAE-00 AEC-05 SS-15

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 /081 W

----- 051272

R 021246Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6935

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, IS, XF

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESIDENT DISCUSSES NUCLEAR POTENTIAL

1. FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL TEXT OF ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE OF DEC 2 MAARIV, IN WHICH ISRAELI PRESIDENT EPHRAIM KATZIR, IS REPORTED TO AFFIRM THAT ISRAEL POSSES " NUCLEAR POTENTIAL".

2. BEGIN TEXT. " ISRAEL HAS A NUCLEAR POTENTIAL"--SAID THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL (MODESTLY) AT A RECEPTION LAST NIGHT, WHICH WAS GIVEN AT THE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE TO A GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENTS FROM WESTERN EUROPE, THE US AND CANADA, NOW TOURING THE COUNTRY. ONE OF THE CORRESPONDENTS ASKED THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY AND THE " TIME OF THE REALIZATION OF THE NUCLEAR POTENTIAL; HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT ASKED WITH A SMILE: " DO YOU EXPECT ME, UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, TO MENTION THE DATE, HERE AND NOW?"

3. TO THE QUESTION OF ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT, AS TO WHETHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06935 021550Z

ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR POTENTIAL IS NOT A SUBJECT FOR CONCERN, PROF.

EPHRAIM KATZIR REPLIED: " WHY SHOULD THAT SUBJECT WORRY US--
LET IT WORRY THE WORLD."

4. HE POINTED OUT THAT ISRAEL SPENDS THIRTY-THREE PERCENT OF
THE NATIONAL PRODUCT ON SECURITY. " IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING IF WE
COULD DIVERT THESE RESOURCES TO CIVILIAN PROJECTS"--AND ADDED--
"HOWEVER, A DEAD MAN CANNOT ENGAGE IN AGRICULTURE OR INDUSTRY.
THEREFORE, WE MUST, FIRST AND FOREMOST, TAKE CARE OF OUR
VERY EXISTENCE, AND THAT IS WHY WE KEEP INVESTING IN 'SECURITY".
END TEXT.

5. COMMENT: WHILE PRESIDENT KATZIR'S REMARKS DO NOT CONSTITUTE
A NEW REVELATION, FACT THAT ISRAELI PRESIDENT, WHO IS TRADITIONALLY
NON-POLITICAL FIGUREHEAD, SHOULD DISCUSS NUCLEAR MATTERS
PUBLICLY AT ALL IS STRIKING. WHETHER COORDINATED WITH GOI
SENIOR OFFICIALS OR NOT, KATZIR'S COMMENTS WOULD SEEM TO BE
ELEMENT OF ISRAELI PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE DESIGNED TO REMIND
ARAB STATES AND OTHERS OF DIMENSIONS OF STAKES IN ARAB-ISRAELI
DISPUTE.
KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV06935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740348-0865
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741266/aaaaceyh.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESIDENT DISCUSSES NUCLEAR POTENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, (KATZIR, EPHRAIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005